

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 450 Ex.]

YEAS—53

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Peters |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Rosen |
| Booker | Kaine | Sanders |
| Brown | Kelly | Schatz |
| Cantwell | King | Schumer |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Carper | Leahy | Sinema |
| Casey | Lujan | Smith |
| Collins | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Coons | Markey | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Murphy | Warren |
| Graham | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Grassley | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Hassan | Padilla | |

NAYS—43

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Portman |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Risch |
| Blunt | Hawley | Romney |
| Boozman | Hoeben | Sasse |
| Braun | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Burr | Inhofe | Scott (SC) |
| Capito | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Thune |
| Cotton | Lee | Toomey |
| Cramer | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Crapo | Marshall | Wicker |
| Cruz | McConnell | Young |
| Daines | Moran | |
| Ernst | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Gillibrand | Rubio |
| Rounds | Tillis |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will immediately be notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in 1 minute, I will be filing cloture on the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, but I am going to give a short, brief remark before I do that.

Now, tonight, I am filing cloture on a motion to proceed on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. That means that the Senate is going to take a first vote on whether or not we even debate this voting rights bill—even debate it—on Wednesday.

Our democracy relies on the guarantee of free and fair elections. Across the country, we are witnessing a coordinated assault on the integrity of our electoral process. We must advance critical reforms to protect the freedom to vote, fulfilling the life and the legacy of our late colleague John Lewis.

If there is any issue that deserves debate in this Chamber, it is protecting voting rights. I know that both parties have differences on this important issue, but Republicans shouldn't be afraid to debate the bill.

If the Senate votes to open debate to this bill, I am prepared to offer an open and honest and full-fledged process here on the Senate floor, where Republican amendments will be made in order and allowed and debated.

If Republican Senators have different ideas on how to achieve a stronger democracy, they owe it to the American people to come forward and debate their ideas. Simply standing silent with their arms crossed, refusing to allow the Senate to function, is unacceptable.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 143, S. 4, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Patty Murray, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jacky Rosen, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, November 1, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TIGRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the situation in Tigray continues to deteriorate. Recent bombings by the Ethiopian Government of Tigray's densely populated capital city, Mekele, has reportedly killed civilians, including children. Millions of people have been displaced, and many in Tigray are facing famine. Combatants on both sides of the conflict have committed atrocities.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported recently that only 14 percent of trucks with relief aid were getting through to the people of Tigray, due to roadblocks and lack of fuel. Lifesaving medications have been blocked from getting into Tigray, which cripples the ability of the UN and their NGO partners to respond to urgent health needs. If the government does not permit deliveries of humanitarian aid, more and more people will needlessly starve to death.

The United States has imposed sanctions against the government in Addis Ababa. The Congress has also acted. The Fiscal Year 2022 Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill was introduced in the Senate on October 26, and it would prohibit U.S. military aid to Ethiopia. It would also require the Department of the Treasury to oppose international bank loans to the Ethiopian Government, except to meet basic human needs, until the government ceases offensive military operation, takes credible and sustained steps toward a genuine political dialogue to end the conflict, implements measures to protect human rights, allows unimpeded humanitarian access, and cooperates with independent investigations of violations of human rights.

Ethiopia is a country facing every imaginable problem, increasingly exacerbated by climate change. There is no military solution to the ethnic rivalries that have divided the country for generations. Any sustainable solution will only be achieved through negotiation and compromise. The international community, including the United States, can help support such a dialogue, but it is the Ethiopian Government's responsibility to create the conditions for that to occur. Rather than squander the country's scarce resources on a fruitless, brutal campaign to dominate Tigray by force, Prime Minister Abiy would be well advised to listen to the international community